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Community *notes*

Visit NMAAHC

Have you visited the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** yet? The museum opened on September 24 of last year on the National Mall in Washington D.C., becoming the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting, and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history.



On **Tuesday, February 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** the museum will present, "NMAAHC Fashion Collection—Iconic Looks." Pulitzer Prize-winning fashion writer, Robin Givhan, will interview haute couture designers who have contributed to NMAAHC's collections including Tracy Reese, who designed the dress Michelle Obama wore during her 2012 DNC speech. The evening's conversation will focus on their works, ideas about culture, inspiration, creativity and entrepreneurship.

"A Celebration of Black Composers and Chamber Music" performed by Pershing's Own will be wrapping up the month on Sunday, **February 26, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The U.S. Army Band, known as Pershing's Own, will perform chamber-music works by esteemed African American classical music composers.

For more information, visit NMAAHC's [website](#).



Greetings

This week's newsletter is packed with events for all. I hope that you find something that will pique your interest.

Enjoy!

Mary Kay

Presidents' Day Closings

Howard County Government offices, courts, 50+ centers and the animal shelter will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day on **Monday, February 20**. However, regular trash, recycling and food scrap services will be in effect and the Alpha Ridge Landfill will be open.

The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a regular weekday schedule; for more information on RTA, call 1-800-270-9553 or visit www.transitrt.com. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect. The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, call 410-313-2200. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect. Click [here](#) to read the full news release.

National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Friday, February 17 is nationally recognized as the Random Acts of Kindness day. This day is an annual opportunity to focus on the good in the world and unite through kindness. This day-long celebration demonstrates that kindness is contagious and it all starts with one act—one smile, one coffee for a stranger, one favor for a friend, one donation in another person's name. It's an opportunity to leave the world better than we found it and inspire others to do the same.

To learn more about this movement, you may read about it on this [website](#).

"Birds in the Garden" Lunch and Learn

Come out to the Hawthorn Center (6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia 21044) on **Tuesday, February 21 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**, for a fun and educational School's Out Lunch for kids ages 5 to 10 (must be accompanied by an adult). For only \$5 per person, you'll get a delicious pizza lunch, plus an interesting presentation by the Master Gardeners called "Birds in the Garden." Children will get to see and touch bird nests, eggs, and bird feeders, and hear bird songs. Participants will also learn how to attract birds to the backyard and make a bird-related craft to take home! You may pre-register by calling the village office at 410-730-7327 or on their [website](#).



'P.S. I Love You' Letters

The Howard County Historical Society hosts a romantic evening of letters and writings from the hearts of historic figures connected to Ellicott City including a U. S. President, a Civil War General, America's most famous literary icon, as well as the "Sage of Baltimore" and others. The event will be held on **Saturday, February 18 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.** at the Historical Society Museum (328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043).



Tickets are \$17 with wine included, or \$12 without, and may be purchased by clicking the [here](#). A part of the proceeds benefit the Howard County Historical Society.

Misako Ballet

On **Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m.**, the Misako Ballet Company celebrates their 10th Anniversary at the Jim Rouse Theater. The afternoon will include "Perspectives," a concert that features a selection of dances, international guest artists, and the premier of the one act story ballet "Celestial Maidens," choreographed by Misako Aoki. For more information on this family-friendly performance and to buy tickets, visit this [website](#).



Show Boat at Toby's Dinner Theater

Have you gone to Toby's Dinner Theater to see Show Boat yet? It's an American classic! Show Boat follows life aboard The Cotton Blossom, a Mississippi River show boat. This timeless musical spans generations, telling a powerful story of hope, freedom, and love while celebrating the music of vaudeville, jazz and gospel with some of the most beautiful songs ever written, including "Ol' Man River," "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" and "Make Believe". For more information and to buy your tickets, visit Toby's [website](#).

Gadget & Gears Day

Visit the Maryland Science Center on Saturday, **February 25 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.** to take part in Gadget & Gears Day! Celebrate National Engineers Week with robots, simple machines, remote controlled cars, and more. Saturday will be full of hands-on discovery and fun. Explorations stations will be located throughout the building where you can engage with scientists and inventors while test-driving robots, and trying your hand at engineering projects. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Training for Spiritual Care Volunteers

Howard County General Hospital will hold a 12-week training program starting Thursday, April 27, for volunteers who want to provide multi-faith spiritual care for patients and their families. The hospital's Chaplaincy Services Department is accepting applications for the program now through March 15. The training program takes place at the hospital on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and provides training in empathetic listening, and spiritual and emotional support.

The Chaplaincy Services Department provides spiritual care and emotional support to the patients, families and staff members of Howard County General Hospital regardless of religious affiliation.

For an application or more information, call 410-740-7898.



Healthy Relationships & Dating Dangers Workshop

Oakland Mills Middle School will be hosting *Healthy Relationships and Dating Dangers* session on **Saturday, February 25 from 9:00 until 11:15 a.m.** Please join HopeWorks, the Howard County School System, and the Council of Elders for this interactive event focusing on learning skills to create and foster positive, healthy relationships for youth with their peers and dating partners. There will be four sessions: one for parents, and separate sessions for Elementary, Middle, and High school students. For more information, visit HopeWorks' website [here](#), and to register for this event, click [here](#).

Baltimore Vegan Weekend 2017

This weekend, **February 17-19**, is Baltimore Vegan Weekend where more than 25 restaurants, cafes, and bars in the area serve up some seriously delicious vegan and vegetarian dishes. Whether you decide to go on the vegan restaurant crawl on Friday, sample dozens of mac n' cheese recipes on Saturday, or go for leisurely brunch on Sunday, it'll be worth it! What a fantastic opportunity to try some new foods and discover a future favorite restaurant this weekend. For more information about the events this weekend, visit Pep Food's [website](#) or check out the Facebook event listing [here](#).

Merriweather Hosts Benefit for MakingChange

Merriweather Post Pavilion is hosting "Beer Tasting & Backstage Tour," a benefit for MakingChange, on **Tuesday, March 14, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**, in the Pavilion's newly renovated backstage.

[MakingChange](#) provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses.

For more information on ticket prices and VIP packages, visit the event page [website](#).

New Hybrid Certified Nursing Assistant Course

Howard Community College (HCC) plans to offer Maryland's first hybrid Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course in the Spring of 2017.

The new blended CNA course, which prepares students to provide a variety of crucial services, from taking vital signs to monitoring patient treatment plans, leverages the most effective elements of online learning and face-to-face teaching. It also benefits from the success of HCC's first hybrid noncredit health offering, the Advanced Patient Care Technician (PCT) course.



Whether used as an entry to a lifelong career or a first step towards a nursing or PA job, the new hybrid CNA course is a welcome addition for students eager for high quality, flexible course options. For more [information](#) on HCC's new hybrid CNA course, please contact Jennifer Bukowitz Keller at JBukowitzKeller@howardcc.edu or 443-518-4967.

Upcoming HCPSS Volunteer Opportunities

History Day Judges

Judge middle and high school student work based on National History Day Commission criteria on Saturday, **March 18 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** at Reservoir High School (11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton). To register, contact [Kelly Reichardt](#).

Passport to the Future Interviewers

Conduct an "employment-like" interview with high school students seeking [Passport to the Future](#) certification on Friday, **March 17 at 8:00 am to 12:00 p.m.** at Howard Community College. For more information contact: sdiscepolo@hcpss.org or 410-313-7493. Register [here](#).

Simulated Congressional Hearing Judges

Judge 5th grade students as they play the role of constitutional experts and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. For more information on dates, locations, and where to register, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Free Tax Preparation

MakingChange hosts Howard County's free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site at the Multi-Service Center located at 9900 Washington Boulevard (Route 1), Laurel, MD 20723. VITA offers free tax preparation assistance to most individual taxpayers who earn less than \$53,000 and to small sole proprietor businesses with claimed deductions less than \$10,000. Visit the [website](#) for important information.

Peabody Preparatory Strings

Saturday, February 18, 11:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

The Walters Art Museum

600 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD

This [concert](#) will feature performances by the Young People's String Program, Performance Academy for Strings, and Pre-Conservatory Violin Program.

Bernice Kish Gallery

Sunday, February 19, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

In celebration of Wilde Lake Village's 50th birthday, the [Bernice Kish Gallery](#) invites the public to attend a reception where guests can enjoy refreshments and music by Bruce Casteel.

Parenting Class

Wednesday, February 22 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center

9411 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Join in and learn about ways to effectively communicate with your child and the importance of structure, consistency, and self-esteem. For more information, click [here](#).

Healthy Relationships & Dating Dangers Workshop

Saturday, February 25 9:00—11:15 a.m.

Oakland Mills Middle School

This event is tailored to help young people obtain the skills to create and foster positive, healthy relationships with their peers and dating partners. To register for this event, click [here](#).



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